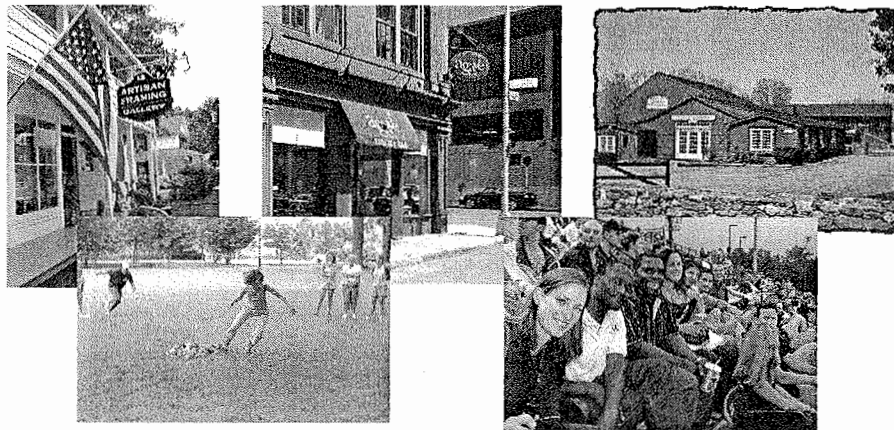


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REGION AT A GLANCE



Prepared by



The MetroHartford Alliance
The City's Chamber of Commerce and the
Regions' Economic Development Leaders

As of: March 6, 2006

METRO- HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

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Web Site: www.hartford.com

Historical: Founded in 1623, Hartford is the State Capital and one of New England's oldest cities. Prominent early settler Reverend Thomas Hooker and a group of his followers from Hereford, England, named the community 'Hartford' in 1636. Located on the banks of the Connecticut River, Hartford was a prosperous commercial center for this region. Early English influence is reflected in the City's architecture and the surrounding quaint suburbs with village greens and antique colonial white clapboard antique homes. Hartford is the home for many American icons such as Mark Twain, Harriet Beecher Stowe, the Colt Gun factory as well as claiming the title as the Insurance Capital of the world.

Geography: Connecticut is among the smallest states in land area with approximately 5,000 square miles with 60% of its land still forested. It borders Massachusetts on the north, Rhode Island on the east, New York on the west, and Long Island Sound on the south. Hartford is equidistant from New York City and Boston and is located in the center of the State. Connecticut is known for its beautiful rolling hills, lakes, and lovely old towns with white steeple churches, sandy beaches, and new urban skylines, offering a full variety of urban and rural residential settings.

The Hartford region includes 36 communities: *Andover, Avon, Berlin, Bloomfield, Bolton, Burlington, Canton, Coventry, Cromwell, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Hebron, Manchester, Mansfield, Marlborough, New Britain, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Stafford, Suffield, Tolland, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor and Windsor Locks.*

Square Miles: City of Hartford – 18.5; Metro Hartford – 796; State of Connecticut – 4,862

Population: City of Hartford – 124,131
Hartford County – 857,183
State of Connecticut – 3.2 million
Knowledge Corridor (Metro Hartford to Western Mass.) – 1.6 million

Real Estate: Because Connecticut is a small state, most commuters do not travel more than 30 minutes to the city. Median sales for homes in the Hartford County region are:

2 Bedroom single-family homes - \$153,100
3 Bedroom single-family homes - \$200,700
4 Bedroom single-family homes - \$327,100
Apartment rentals - \$676

Climate: Connecticut has a relatively mild climate and boasts four beautiful seasons which attract many tourists and provide for a variety of outdoor sports. The monthly average temperatures range from a high of 84.8F to a low of 16.7F. On average Connecticut sees only 12 days per year with temperatures above 90 degrees and only 6 days per year with temperatures at or below 0 degrees. Despite its small size, there is some variety in climate. The northwest hills can be as much as 10 degrees lower than in the central valley year round.

The average annual rainfall is 44.2 inches and snowfall is 47.3 inches. Snow and ice coverage has decreased over the past century, and Connecticut has recorded approximately 10% less in snow cover since the late 1960s.

Growing Season: Connecticut enjoys a fairly long growing season. The first killing frost is generally in mid-October and the spring thaw begins in mid-April. Along with moderate rainfall, the State has excellent growing conditions and a long growing season.

WHY HARTFORD?

The City of Hartford and the region are ranked highly for workforce productivity, accessibility, income levels, technology, education, the arts and heritage. Hartford is resource-rich, with desirable residential real estate, communications, infrastructure, parkland and nature trails, health care, public safety and amenities.

Arts: Hartford ranks among the top six percent of North American regions for the arts. Greater Hartford is home to nearly 200 arts, cultural and heritage organizations. Because of the city's vibrant arts, culture and entertainment sector, noted economist Richard Florida ranked Hartford in the "Top 20" of cool places to live, work, start a family and have fun. Greater Hartford also is one of the best regions in the U.S. for supporting the arts, with the 10th-largest United Arts Fund in the nation.

Hartford is home to many leading attractions, including:

- **Artists Collective**, an arts and multi-cultural organization founded by Jackie McLean, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) jazz master
- **Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts**, Connecticut's premier performing arts center, ranked by *Performance Magazine* as the top venue in the U.S. with under 3,000 seats
- **Connecticut Opera**, the sixth-oldest professional opera company in America
- **Harriett Beecher Stowe Center**, home to the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- **Hartford Civic Center**, a 16,500-seat performance center featuring international talent

- **Hartford Stage** produces classics and world premiere dramas that have garnered multiple Tony Awards
- **Hartford Symphony Orchestra** is a major attraction for music lovers
- **Mark Twain House and Museum Center**, where America's leading writer and humorist created his masterpieces
- **New England Dodge Music Center**, a 25,000-seat indoor-outdoor theater showcasing the best in rock, pop and country music. Recent artists include: Dave Matthews, Aerosmith, KISS, Santana, Toby Keith, Tim McGraw, and Rod Stewart.
- **Chevrolet Theater (formerly the Oakdale)**, located in Wallingford, CT, this 5,000-seat indoor theater provides a variety of first class entertainment in music, comedy and children's programs. Recent artists include: Sting, Tina Turner, Whitney Houston, Jerry Seinfeld, Kevin James, Bill Cosby, Barney, and The Wiggles.
- **Old State House**, the oldest statehouse in the U.S., built in 1796
- **Real Art Ways**, the nationally recognized center for cutting-edge visual and performing arts
- **TheaterWorks**, providing the best of off-Broadway productions
- **Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art**, the oldest public art museum in America with more than 45,000 works in its permanent collection, and an expansion planned

Accessibility: Hartford offers easy access to four major interstates (I-84, I-90, I-91 and I-95) that travel the entire East Coast and westward. Downtown Hartford's bus and train depots connect to major Eastern and Canadian markets. With close proximity to several metropolitan and coastal areas, one can reach the following destinations in less than a three-hour drive:

New York, NY – 125 miles (2 hours)
 Boston, MA – 110 miles (1 ½ hours)
 Providence RI – 90 miles (1 ½ hours)

Hartford's Bradley International Airport is one of the nation's fastest-growing airports and the second largest in New England.

- Medium hub airport serving 6.7 million passengers per year
- Serves as the primary backup to JFK, Logan, Newark, and LaGuardia
- Offers flights to 72 destinations including 22 daily direct flights to Chicago and 39 daily direct flights to Washington-Baltimore
- Over 15,000 parking spaces including a 3,500-car garage located directly across from its terminal
- Airport services 19 commercial carriers with nearly 300 national flights with additional service to Canada and the Caribbean.
- Major Airlines: America West, American Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delta, Northwest Airlines, Delta Song, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, US Airways

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- Regional Airlines: Air Canada Jazz, American Eagle, CommutAir, Continental Express, Independence Air, Skyway Airlines, United Express, US Airways Express

The MetroHartford Area offers exceptional infrastructure and access

- Major interstates travel the entire east coast and westward. I-91 crosses I-84 in Hartford, I-91 meets Merritt Parkway and I-95 to the south, and I-91 meets the Mass Turnpike I-90 to the north.
- These interstates all converge in downtown Hartford providing exceptional access to the city
- New parking facilities have been added and others are being developed. The Morgan Street Garage added 2,300 new parking spaces in 2002 and extensive new parking facilities will be added in 2005 with the opening of the new Convention Center
- The Connecticut Transit Authority provides local and express public bus service in the Hartford metro area.
- Downtown's Union Station provides rail connections to Amtrak and MetroNorth, and serves as the transportation hub to major bus lines.
- There are no toll roads in Connecticut and no traffic lights to the bridges of New York or the tunnels of Boston

Business: Hartford serves as the headquarters for several Fortune 500 companies, including United Technologies Corporation, The Hartford Financial Services Group, Aetna Inc, and Northeast Utilities.

Hailed as "the insurance capital of the world," Hartford employs seven-times more people in the insurance field than the average metropolitan area. Among these employers are Aetna, Hartford Steam Boiler, ING, CIGNA, Lincoln Life, Uniprise, MetLife, St. Paul Travelers, The Phoenix Companies, Mass Mutual and Prudential Financial Services.

Hartford has attracted many significant businesses in other industries including aerospace, precision machining, information technology, health and medical. Among these employers are, SBC, Henkel Loctite, Kaman, Trumpf and Lego Systems, Inc., Retail Brand Alliance, Ahlstrom.

Four of the nation's Top 25 Companies for Executive Women, as recognized by *Executive Female* magazine, are located in the Hartford region: Aetna, CIGNA, The Phoenix Companies and Lincoln Financial Group.

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Community: Hartford offers a variety of professional, volunteer and diverse organizations that support local the community and personal development. More information is available on www.hartford.com.

Professional Organizations:

- BNI Hartford (Business Network International)
- Connecticut Women's Council
- Central Connecticut Women's Forum
- Greater Hartford Jaycees
- Leadership Greater Hartford
- National Association of Women Business Owners
- The Small Business Network

Volunteer Organizations:

- Connecticut Leadership Board Bank
- Habitat for Humanity
- United Way of Greater Hartford

Diversity Organizations:

- Connecticut Pride Committee
- Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission
- The Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective
- Urban League of Greater Hartford
- University of Connecticut Asian American Cultural Center
- Hispanic Professional Network

Dining: Fine cuisine and exotic fare can be found throughout the city's neighborhoods, downtown and across the entire Hartford region. Here one can sample the international flavors of the Caribbean, South America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Hartford is home to more than 30 independently owned four-star restaurants, and more than 16 new restaurants and food outlets have opened since January 2004 as part of Hartford's redevelopment.

Economic

Development: Hartford has received \$750 million in public investment and \$2 billion in private investment over a seven-year period to make the city and region an even better place to live, work, learn, meet and visit. Hartford's growth will continue to flourish by aggressive government support, assisted by both the private and public sectors, which have joined forces to revitalize the city's downtown core and neighborhoods.

Education: Connecticut's school systems get high marks nationally. Students rank #1 in mathematics, writing and reading, according to standardized tests.

Connecticut is in the heart of the Knowledge Corridor that stretches from the Hartford region to western Massachusetts. The Knowledge Corridor is home to 32 higher education institutions and 120,000 students.

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- Institutions include **Trinity College, Wesleyan University, the University of Connecticut, the University of Hartford, Central Connecticut State University, University of Massachusetts, Smith College and Amherst College.**
- In addition, there are numerous community colleges throughout the Hartford region. **Capital Community College** in downtown Hartford has a 304,400-square-foot campus with large departments occupying a single floor.
- The University Of Connecticut School Of Business has established an insurance and financial education center in Hartford, offering the latest in financial technologies and real-time databases.
- Connecticut spends the most money on primary and secondary education in the nation.
- Connecticut meets or exceeds the US national average for the percent of people 25 years and older with high school and college degrees:
 - High School Diploma - US Avg. 28.6%, CT Avg. 28.5%
 - Bachelor's Degree - US Avg. 15.5%, CT Avg. 18.2%
 - Graduate or Professional Degree - US Avg. 8.9%, CT Avg. 13.3%
- Connecticut offers a variety of primary and secondary education choices including public, private schools, magnet, and charter schools. Some of the largest private co-educational schools include:
 - **Choate Rosemary Hall**, Wallingford (co-ed, boarding and day, grade 9 to post-graduate)
 - **The Loomis Chaffe School**, Windsor (co-ed, boarding and day, grade 9 to post-graduate)
 - **Kingswood Oxford**, West Hartford (co-ed, day only, grade 6 through grade 12)
 - **Taft School**, Watertown (co-ed, boarding and day, grade 9 to post-graduate)
 - **Renbrook**, West Hartford (co-ed, day only, 3 year old to grade 9)
 - **St. Margaret McTernan School**, Waterbury (day only, pre-K to grade 12)
 - **Suffield Academy**, Suffield (co-ed, boarding and day, grade 9 to grade 12)
 - **Westminster School**, Simsbury (co-ed, boarding and day, grade 9 to grade 12)
 - **Watkinson School**, Hartford (co-ed, day only, grade 6 through grade 12)

Charter schools include:

- **Highville Mustard see Charter School in Hamden** for pre-K through grade 8. This school provides global studies including arts and language as a means of teaching basic and higher order thinking skills.
- **The Integrated Day Charter School in Norwich** for K through grade 8. This school independent research, parental involvement, social curriculum, and personal goal setting and assessment.
- **Jumoke Academy in Hartford** for K through grade 6. This school prepares children to compete in the global marketplace through basic education founded on early intervention, parental involvement, and regional and cultural identity.
- **Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy** a public high school with worldwide academic standards, connects a rigorous, pre-university curriculum to the world beyond the classroom by demonstrating the interrelationships among the academic disciplines, by promoting international understanding, and by establishing a balance among academic, artistic, and social activities in order to produce responsible, ethical, thoughtful, and informed citizens who are prepared to be global leaders.

Health Care: Two of the nation's top 100 hospitals are located here – **Hartford Hospital and St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center** – as well as Connecticut Children's Medical Center and the Institute of Living.

MetroHartford Medical Facilities:

- 12 General Medicine and Surgical Hospitals
- 12 Specialty Hospitals (except Psychiatric)
- 10 Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Facilities
- 49 Skilled Nursing Facilities
- 40 Nursing and Personal Care Facilities
- 2 Intermediate Care Facilities
- University of Connecticut Medical School and Dental School and Hospital

Fitness and Wellness Centers: Hartford and the surrounding region also have a multitude of fitness and wellness centers for public use. Among these facilities are:

- **Bally Total Fitness** – several locations throughout the region
- **Big Sky** - several locations throughout the region
- **Court House Plus**
- **Curves for Women** - several locations throughout the region
- **Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center**
- **HealthTrax Fitness and Wellness Center** - several locations throughout the region

- **YMCA/YWCA** - several locations throughout the region

Leisure:

In addition to the abundance of arts, heritage, culture, sports and entertainment in the Hartford region, the area is close to many other attractions. Connecticut's shoreline, with its sandy beaches, is a 45-minute drive south. Two of the world's largest casinos are just a 40-minute drive away. To the north are some of New England's highest mountains, perfect for skiing and hiking.

A multitude of leisure and lifestyle attractions in the Hartford Region and nearby area include:

- Basketball Hall of Fame
- Dinosaur State Park
- Elizabeth Park
- Essex Steam Train and Riverboat
- Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun Casinos
- Gillette Castle
- Goodspeed Opera House
- Lake Compounce Amusement Park
- Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration
- Mystic Seaport
- New Britain Museum of American Art
- Noah Webster Museum
- Talcott Mountain Music Festival
- Summerwinds Music
- 14 local vineyards

A year-round schedule of fairs and festivals celebrates Hartford's rich art, music and cultural heritage, as well as sports and ethnic diversity. Numerous agricultural fairs are held in the neighboring towns. Major festivals celebrated annually in Hartford include:

- Connecticut African-American Day Parade
- Connecticut Veterans Day Parade
- First Night Hartford
- Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz
- Greater Hartford Marathon
- Buick Championship (PGA)
- Hartford Festival of Light
- Hartford Vintage Base Ball Invitational
- The Amistad Foundation's Juneteenth Celebration
- Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival
- Puerto Rican Day Parade
- Riverfest – July 4th Weekend
- Rose and Garden Weekend
- Sunken Garden Poetry Festival at Hill-Stead Museum

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- Talcott Mountain Music Festival
- Taste of Hartford
- West Indian Parade

And Nearby in New England:

- Berkshires and Tanglewood, MA
- Block Island, RI
- Cape Cod National Seashore, MA
- White Mountains – New Hampshire
- Green Mountains - Vermont
- Six Flags New England, MA
- The "Big E": Eastern States Exposition, MA
- Yankee Candle Company, MA

Retail:

Hartford and the surrounding region have a variety of shopping venues:

- **Westfarms Mall, Farmington** – Located 7 miles from Downtown Hartford, this enclosed, 2-level mall provides 1.3 million square feet of retail space and 160 upscale shops.
- **The Shoppes at Buckland Hills, Manchester** – Located 9 miles from Hartford, this enclosed mall with 1.2 million square feet of space has two levels and 140 shops.
- **Evergreen Walk, South Windsor** – This 300,000 square foot high-end lifestyle development includes retail shops, restaurants, and will soon incorporate a fitness center, nightclubs, recreation areas and some residential apartments.
- **The Shoppes at Farmington Valley, Canton** – This complex offers more than 300,000 square feet of upscale shopping and restaurants.
- **Blue Back Square, West Hartford** – Not yet under construction, this high-end lifestyle complex will include 30 retail stores, six restaurants, movie-theater, fitness center, and parking garages.

Sports:

In 2004, for the first time ever, the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Championships were won by the same school, the University of Connecticut, whose teams play regularly at the Hartford Civic Center's Veterans Memorial Coliseum. In hockey, the Hartford Wolf Pack made the final in the AHL Playoff games in 2004. With 40,000 seats, Rentschler Field is home to the University of Connecticut's Division IA football team and hosts international soccer and rugby matches.

Other major events include the Buick Championship at the TPC in Cromwell and Fox Force professional tennis. An affiliate of the Minnesota Twins, The

New Britain Rock Cats play Double A baseball to sell out crowds. Simsbury is home to the International Skating Center where many Olympic Skaters train and perform. In addition, Connecticut is a few short hours away from major ski areas in Vermont, Massachusetts and, Maine.

Outdoor recreation choices include canoeing, tubing, horseback riding, cycling, mountain biking, jogging, hot air ballooning, and golf on more than 20 courses. Hartford provides a variety of sporting events to watch as well as plenty of opportunity for participation.

- UCONN Men's and Women's Basketball (Hartford Civic Center/Gampel Pavilion, UCONN Campus)
- UCONN Football (Rentschler Field, East Hartford)
- Hartford Wolfpack (AHL Hockey)
- Buick Championship (Professional Golf)
- Fox Force (Professional Tennis)
- Golf – over 35 public courses within a 30 minute drive from downtown Hartford
- 66 Ski slopes in CT, MA, ME, NH, VT including Killington and Stowe
- Canoeing, tubing down the Farmington River

Waterfront: Connecting many of the Hartford region's towns and neighborhoods, the Connecticut River provides a dynamic waterfront experience. Located here is an attractive riverfront plaza with picnic areas and entertainment venues, as well as a 6.5-mile park system, a Victorian-style boathouse and The Lady Katharine riverboat. It is the backdrop for events such as rowing competitions, the Riverfront Dragon Boat Races & Asian Festival, jazz and blues festivals, national bass fishing tournaments, and the annual July 4th Riverfest.

Workforce: Connecticut ranks #1 in gross state productivity, which can be directly attributed to a highly educated workforce. Over 90,000 people work within a three-mile radius of Downtown Hartford and more than 42 percent of the workforce is categorized as upper-middle class to wealthy. Per-capita income is \$5,000 above the U.S. average along the Knowledge Corridor, which extends from the Hartford region to Western Massachusetts.

Other Growth: Both downtown Hartford and the surrounding region are enhancing or building residential, retail, and business properties including the following:

- **Adriaen's Landing** – 30 acre hotel, retail, and residential development is planned to open in 2005
- **Connecticut Convention Center** – 550,000 square feet of space with 145,000 square feet of exhibition space. Opened in June 2005, this will be the largest convention center between New York and Boston
- **Connecticut Center for Science and Exploration** - \$150 million interactive science education facility is expected to draw 400,000 students, families and tourists per year

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- **Capewell Horse and Nail Factory Building** – being converted to 92 condominiums
- **Sage-Allen building** – being converted into 78 loft apartments and 42 four bedroom townhouses for college students
- **Trumbull on the Park** – nine story apartment building with 88 units and the restoration of a dozen apartments in three residential buildings
- **55 on the Park** – 132 upscale apartments
- **Marriott Hartford** – 409 guest rooms and 8 luxury suites opening in June 2005
- **Hilton Hartford** – 392 room 4-star hotel reopening in 2005
- **Homewood Suites by Hilton** – 107 room extended stay hotel with one and two bedroom suites
- **Charter Oak Marketplace** – 300,000 square foot shopping center including Wal-Mart, Marshalls, Payless Shoes, and others
- **Gillette Ridge** – CIGNA Corporation is redeveloping its 655-acre office campus into a mixed-use development including a championship public golf course, apartment complex, single-family homes, child-care center, 2 million square feet of office space and a hotel and conference center.
- **Hartford 21** – Scheduled for completion in 2006, this complex will include 262 units in a 36-story residential tower. In addition, it will house retail, restaurant, and office space.